

In the Drawings:

Please amend the drawings as indicated in red ink on the four attached sheets showing figures 2 through 5.

In the Abstract of the Invention:

Please replace the Abstract of the Invention with:

02
006367-0300
--A system and method for electronic voting, including initialization, audit and trusted recovery features. A vote request message is received from a voter, including an unblinded validated vote certificate, and a blinded unvalidated vote certificate. If the unblinded validated vote certificate is determined to be legitimate, then a vote is recorded, and the blinded unvalidated vote certificate is validated to obtain a blinded, validated vote certificate that is sent to the voter. An audit protocol can be used to further verify the legitimacy of any vote, and a voter can recover from a broken connection by replaying a voting protocol run.--

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 03
1. A method for initializing [a series of] an electronic voting transactions, comprising[the steps of]:
 - a. receiving [an initialization] a voter registration request message that atomically binds
 - i. voting authorization data, and
 - ii. a blinded unvalidated vote certificate to be validated;
 - b. determining if the vote authorization data is valid;
 - c. if the vote authorization data is valid, then validating the blinded unvalidated vote certificate to obtain a blinded validated vote certificate; and
 - d. sending [an initialization] registration response message to a [registrant] voter that includes the blinded validated vote certificate atomically bound to the [initialization] registration request message[received in step a].